Mathematics

MATHEMATICAL ART OF A GEOMETRIC OFFSPRING

Etsuko Nishida
John O. Kiltinen*
Northern Michigan University,
Department of Mathematics,
Marquette, MI 49855
etnishid@nmu.edu

Sometimes, we see an ordered wavy shape in a series of ripples on television screen or computer monitors. When two repetitive geometric patterns are superimposed, a phantom interference figure may appear, overlaying the original and creating the more complex geometric pattern (known as a moiré pattern). We can explain mathematically how these fascinating illusions are formed, and can also predict their shapes. In addition to discussing the theory, I will also demonstrate sample moiré patterns with several transparencies.